

# THE 10 BEST ALBUMS OF THE DECADE, PG 34

## Local

Dexter talks climate in Denmark  
pg 3



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HALIFAX • WEEKEND, DECEMBER 18-20, 2009

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## Sports

Moose stun Sea Dogs on road  
pg 24



Contracts signed for restoration of Bluenose II

**HERITAGE** Contracts have been signed with a project manager and design consultant to restore Nova Scotia's famed Bluenose II schooner.

The province and the federal government have committed up to \$7.2 million each toward the project, which will keep the vessel out of the water for most of 2010.

Tourism Minister Percy Paris announced the awarding of the project management contract to MHPM Project Managers Inc.

Lengkeek Vessel Engineering Inc. will provide design consultation by developing detailed plans and specifications to be used during the construction phase.

Tendering for the construction phase will begin shortly.

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## News on the Move

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## Movies pg 28



Downey shines as Sherlock

## On the web



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Stacey Hoar has a laugh as she shaves her coworker Charlie Hume's head at the PCL Constructors Canada office in Dartmouth on Thursday. Hume and fellow employee Howie Sparkes had their heads shaved after fellow employees raised over \$16,000 for the United Way.

## Cop hit by car, man charged

**CRIME** A 37-year-old man is facing a number of charges after he allegedly struck a plainclothes police officer with his car Thursday in Dartmouth.

Halifax Regional Police say two officers stopped a vehicle on Farrell Road around 12:30 p.m. and approached the car on foot, identifying themselves as police.

The driver, who police say had been previously prohibited from driving, allegedly opened his door before putting the car in reverse and accelerating backwards, hitting one of the officers.

"The officer had a minor abrasion on his leg from the car door," said Staff Sgt. Brenda Zima. "He did not need to be taken to hospital."

Zima said the accused then struck a dumpster and was taken hospital for treatment of a minor head injury. He faces charges of assault with a weapon, resisting arrest, driving while prohibited and possession of marijuana.

This was the second alleged attack on a Halifax police officer this week. Another officer was sent to hospital Tuesday with facial injuries after police say a man arrested for shop lifting allegedly attacked him with a flashlight on the Bedford Highway.

MONIQUE MUISE  
METRO HALIFAX

# A little off the top

PCL Constructors employees raise over \$16K for United Way

MONIQUE MUISE  
monique.muise@metronews.ca



## Generosity knows no recession

Despite the economic downturn, last year's campaign netted \$5.84 million, and United

Way CEO Catherine Woodman said she expects people will be equally generous in 2009.

both go under the razor if 85 per cent of the staff donated to the campaign.

"We were sitting around trying to figure out how we were going to raise this money," said a freshly shorn Hume. "Shaving our heads seemed to be a very good motivator."

It was. In the end, 95

per cent of the staff chipped in to raise a grand total of \$16,450.

The company has promised it will match that donation, and Hume and Sparkes were forced to make good on their promise.

"I don't mind doing it," Hume chuckled. "It's for a good cause."

The United Way campaign kicked off on Sept. 11, and will wrap up in February. The organization hopes to raise a total of \$6 million in support of a variety of programs and services throughout HRM.

"We're quite optimistic," said United Way CEO Catherine Woodman. "We track our results weekly, and we're still projecting that we're on goal."

"We have a community that is particularly strong in times of adversity," she said.

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# Local



Search for missing fisherman called off

**YARMOUTH** The active search for a missing fishing boat and its captain was called off Thursday as rough weather enclosed the Bay of Fundy off Yarmouth.

Maj. James Simiana of the search-and-rescue centre in Halifax said crews had covered a broad area but the time frame for possible survival had passed, even though the missing man was wearing an immersion suit.

"Now we're beyond the survival capability of the individual given the water and the weather conditions," he said.

RCMP identified the missing man as David Trask, 60, of Meteghan.

The search has been hampered by high winds, up to six-metre seas and snow squalls that have limited visibility at times.

Three other crew members were rescued from a life raft after the Pubnico Explorer sank Wednesday.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Blogs** It's Called Football welcomes author Declan Hill to discuss the fight against match fixing



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## Lobster being shipped for holidays

Loads of lobster will be departing from the Halifax Stanfield International Airport for the holidays in the coming days. The Halifax International Airport Authority announced Thursday that from Saturday through to Dec. 27, a number of aircrafts will be transporting fresh Nova Scotia lobster to regions in both Europe and Asia. Each flight will carry between 20 and 100 tonnes of lobster, with scheduled freighter flights including Icelandair and Korean Air.

METRO HALIFAX

## Dexter pushing ahead

Says breakdown in talks can't excuse climate inaction



**Provinces can't use a breakdown in climate-change talks in Copenhagen as an excuse to do nothing, Premier Darrell Dexter said Thursday.**

As Stephen Harper's government continues to argue against Kyoto-level greenhouse-gas targets, Dexter said he and the Nova Scotia delegation have been working with sub-nationals on setting tougher goals.

"The fact that some jurisdictions have not been able to perhaps reach the position that we wish they would does not excuse everyone else from acting," Dexter said via conference call from Copenhagen.

Dexter said he hopes the provinces will be on the same page as the federal government, but if Harper goes a different route, it "does not excuse the individual jurisdictions from taking action."

Nova Scotia was awarded at Copenhagen for its Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, which the province reports is the first law in North America to put hard caps on emissions.

The act mandates a 25 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2020, but Dexter hinted Thursday Nova Scotia may have to go even farther than that.

"Even having set an ag-



Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrives in Copenhagen for the 2009 United Nations climate-change conference on Thursday.



gressive 25 per cent renewable standard, at some point you will have to look at that and say, 'Have we done what is necessary to move Nova Scotia forward into a green economy?'" And I think ultimately the answer will be that you have to expand those (goals)," he said.

This week, the premier signed a non-binding declaration to pursue action and policies to reduce climate change. He said despite the TV images of violent protests, a lot of work

is being done by the thousands of delegates trying to find climate-change solutions.

Several local business representatives also went to Copenhagen seeking investment for green projects. Dexter said he didn't know if any of them had secured money, but said that likely wouldn't happen until after the summit.

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## NDP mulling options to replace insurance cap

PAUL MCLEOD

paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

**CLAIMS** There's no question the \$2,500 insurance cap in Nova Scotia will be gone next year. The question is what will replace it.

Premier Darrell Dexter confirmed Thursday his government plans to bring in spring legislation to kill the cap on soft-tissue and other minor injuries suffered in car accidents.

He said the cap has unjustly excluded people with severe injuries from seeking compensation.

"The cap is not fair to people who have suffered serious injuries," Dexter said via teleconference from Copenhagen.

"Definitions that were included in the legislation do not accurately provide for a fair system."

But they haven't determined whether to bring in a new system to limit frivo-

**"The cap is not fair to people who have suffered serious injuries."**

Premier Darrell Dexter lous claims. One option mentioned by Dexter is to introduce a deductible system. A pre-determined amount would be deducted to act as a deterrent to unwarranted claims.

A government paper on insurance options is near completion and will set the framework for next year's legislation.

Deputy Premier Frank Corbett said he wasn't worried about frivolous claims driving up insurance prices.

"That's between the insurance company and the people who buy the policies. If the claim is frivolous, then it doesn't get paid. It's as simple as that," he said.

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## Slain officer hoped to retrieve rifle: Briefing

An RCMP officer entered the home of a potentially suicidal man on a Nova Scotia reserve moments before he shot him because he thought he could retrieve the man's rifle, says the lead investigator of the probe into the 2008 fatal police shooting.

Halifax police Supt. Michael Burns explained the officer's rationale for entering John Simon's residence during a briefing he gave to the Wagmatcook First Nation's band council and Simon's family.

A recording of the Monday briefing was provided to The Canadian Press on Thursday by Gary Richard, the band council's lawyer.

Richard said he put his tape recorder in plain view of the officers during the briefing.

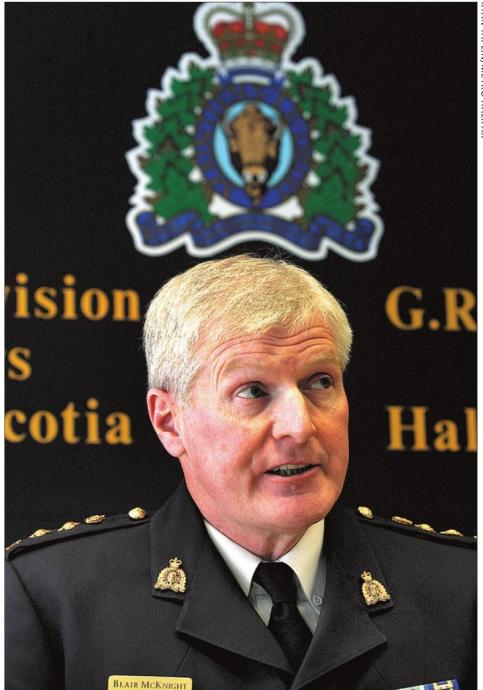
At one point during the meeting, Richard asks Burns why the officer went into Simon's home through an open window during the Dec. 2, 2008, encounter.

"He felt that he could, from his past dealings with Mr. Simon ... retrieve the firearm," Burns said on the recording.

To date, the RCMP have declined to make public the reasons why the officer decided to enter Simon's house, citing privacy legislation.

The investigation into the fatal shooting, led by the Halifax police, has concluded that the officer didn't violate any laws and shot Simon in self-defence.

The recording also gives a more detailed account of



RCMP Chief Supt. Blair McKnight answers questions regarding the death of John Simon at a press conference at the RCMP H Division Headquarters on Thursday.

what investigators say occurred before Simon's death.

The RCMP did not return a message late Thursday seeking comment about the recording.

"There's been a significant forensic examination of the police officer's service pistol and Mr. Simon's rifle," Burns said.

"Forensic laboratory results lead to the inference that the gun was pointed at (the) constable ... at the time he shot Mr. John Simon."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ed there is significant evidence to back the decision not to lay criminal charges against the officer.

The municipality needs \$500 million to treat its waste water, and has 11 uncapped landfills that are threatening groundwater supplies around the region, he said.

"We have no financial capacity to address even those basic environmental issues that the federal government and provincial government have identified as absolutely necessary in our region," Morgan said in an interview from Cape Breton.

Morgan added that he will push the province for more funding.

## CBRM to keep fighting for payments

**EQUALIZATION** The mayor of Cape Breton says he will continue the political fight after the Supreme Court of Canada rejected the municipality's bid to continue its legal battle for higher equalization payments from Nova Scotia.

Mayor John Morgan said Thursday the legal battle has hit the end of the road, but the problems the Cape Breton Regional Municipality face remain. "The issue can't end there," he said.

"The very survival of the region depends on addressing the issues that were raised in the legal action."

As is customary, the Supreme Court gave no reasons for its decision Thursday to dismiss the application for leave to appeal a lower court judgment.

The Nova Scotia Supreme Court rejected the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's lawsuit in April 2008, a decision that was upheld by the province's Appeal Court this year.

The provincial Supreme Court said the dispute over equalization is a political issue and not one that should be decided by

the courts.

The municipality wanted a greater share of federal equalization payments given to the province for municipalities.

Morgan said Cape Breton



John Morgan

has no capital budget, other than money it borrows, and it cannot afford services it is mandated to provide by senior levels of government.

The municipality needs \$500 million to treat its waste water, and has 11 uncapped landfills that are threatening groundwater supplies around the region, he said.

"We have no financial capacity to address even those basic environmental issues that the federal government and provincial government have identified as absolutely necessary in our region," Morgan said in an interview from Cape Breton.

Morgan added that he will push the province for more funding.

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## Police lay charges after escape attempt

**MONIQUE MUISE**  
monique.muise@metronews.ca

A 30-year-old Sackville man is facing a bevy of charges in connection with a bizarre escape attempt on the Bedford Highway earlier this week.

Police say James David Brown is charged with assault with a weapon, assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, escaping custody, breach of probation and breach of recognizance.

The charges stem from an alleged attack that sent a Halifax Regional Police officer to hospital early Tuesday evening with injuries to his face and eye.

Police say the officer reported he was transporting a man to police headquarters when he saw the suspect swallow something. He pulled over to check on him, police say, but when he opened the door the man allegedly struck him with a flashlight. Police say a physical struggle ensued, and both the officer and

the prisoner ended up in the middle of the highway facing oncoming traffic. Two Good Samaritans eventually stopped to help the officer gain control of the man, police say.

The prisoner was also taken to hospital following the incident.

Police have acknowledged the man had not been handcuffed before being put into the back of the police cruiser.

No date has been set for Brown's first court appearance.

## Support rains on food bank

**AMY BOND**  
for Metro Halifax

**CHARITY** The Halifax Rainmen showed up to lend a helping hand at the Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank on Thursday morning.

Players from the Premier Basketball League team were there for the Parker Street's annual Christmas Turkey Dinner Hamper Campaign, in which volunteers from across the Halifax Regional Municipality gather to provide Christmas dinners to the needy.

"We're about community," Rainmen president and owner Andre Livingston said. "And we're giving back to our community in any way we can."

Mel Boutilier, executive director for Parker Street, said the need is much higher this year because of the current state of the economy.

"People are more stressed now than they were last year" he said. "The prices of things are going up gradually ... but people on fixed incomes don't have anymore money. So they can't meet the basic needs."

The Rainmen towered over the rest of the volunteers, packing boxes with Christmas dinners and carrying them outside.

"A lot of people, they



Halifax Rainmen players Tony Bennett, left, and Eric Crookshank help out at the Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank on Thursday. The entire team volunteered its time to help distribute Christmas hampers to the less fortunate.

see you as basketball players, but they don't see the good things that you do in the community," said Eric Crookshank, who is in his third year volunteering for the campaign.

Last year 850 dinners were given out, whereas this year they are prepared to serve 900 families or more.

The cost of the food is covered by supporters such as the Halifax Juicy Fruit Market, which this year donated \$5,000 in produce, for the campaign and The Turkey Club Society, which is covering the cost of the turkeys for the second consecutive year. The Society is also donating \$25,000 to the cause.

## Blood: It's in you to give for the holidays

**DONATIONS** The Canadian Blood Services is asking people of HRM to make their last good deed of the decade giving blood over the holidays.

This is a busy time for most, but surgeries, cancer treatments, and other

medical procedures don't stop for the hustle and bustle, a CBS release said Thursday. People are encouraged to give blood, as clinics in HRM are closed for consecutive three-day weekends from Dec 25 to 27 and from Jan 1 to 3.

Donors who have an appointment are urged to honour it, the release added.

Those who have never given blood are encouraged to come out to a scheduled clinic.

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Operation Red Nose 2009 is heading into its final weekend with 940 people being transported home safely from a group of 236 volunteers. So far, almost \$6,500 has been raised for the holiday safe driving campaign, with donations from Friday and Saturday expected to bring the total to about \$8,000. METRO HALIFAX

**Final weekend for Operation Red Nose**

## Four charged in new home construction site heist

ALY THOMSON  
for Metro Halifax

Four men have been charged with break and enter into new home construction sites.

Halifax RCMP say on Nov. 27 an officer observed a U-haul van leaving the White Hills subdivision in the early morning. The officer pulled the van over and discovered items stolen from a house under construction on Sandwich Drive.

Police say they then executed search warrants on various properties in Fall River, Hammonds Plains and Spider Lake. Police allege a large quantity of construction materials including windows, doors, tubs, tools and lumber were recovered.

Police spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin said theft from construction sites is an "ongoing issue."

Matthew Burry and Anthony McGuigan, both 23, and Jason Lunn, 38, have been charged.

# Cash registers ringing in season

Retailers say consumers opening their wallets wider this year

ALY THOMSON  
for Metro Halifax



**The Halifax Shopping Centre is busy with the bustle of Christmas shoppers this week, with some retailers stating the economic downturn hasn't affected the holiday rush.**

In fact, some look to be cashing in.

"Actually, I find that the figures are better this year ... as well as our traffic," said Jeannette Jones, who works at Fairweather.

Linda Townsend, privacy officer for the shopping centre, said although she won't receive concrete figures until the middle of January, it's safe to say the mall didn't take a hit this year.

"So far I would say it's as good, if not better, com-

pared to last year," she said, adding the mall has sold over \$1 million in gift cards, which is well above last year.

Last minute procrastinators will no doubt boost those numbers in the week before Christmas, as stores throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality look to cash in on last-minute shop-

pers.

"This is my first time out. I've waited till the last minute," said shopper Troy Frasier, who added he'd most likely spend more on Christmas gifts than last year.

Despite these positive in-

dicitors, a recent survey by Thinkwell research showed less than one in three Nova Scotians (31 per cent) believe the provincial economy will get stronger over the next six months, down nine points from September.

"Whether or not this will place a damper on holiday shopping in the province remains to be seen," Len Preeper, president of Thinkwell Research, said in a release.

The survey, conducted Nov. 27 to 30, saw 401 Nova Scotian adults surveyed and carries a margin of error of 4.9 percentage points.



RYAN TAPLIN/NAME: METRO HALIFAX

A shopper walks past a Christmas store at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Wednesday. Holiday shoppers are out in full force and some retailers expect to have strong sales during the season.

### News in brief

**CHARGES** An 18-year-old male has been charged in a fatal car crash in Nova Scotia last spring that killed a 15-year-old

passenger. Jordon Wood of Enfield died in hospital after the single-vehicle accident on the Horne Settlement Road near

Enfield. Enfield RCMP said Thursday it has completed a lengthy investigation into the crash and the driver, who was

17 at the time, has been charged with dangerous driving causing death. He is to appear in youth court in Shubenacadie on Jan. 18. The driver suffered serious injuries after being thrown from the vehicle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**Saskatchewan opts against nuclear power — for now**  
 Saskatchewan has stopped short of giving a green light to a nuclear power plant, but it isn't putting up a permanent red light either. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Canada

## Harper arrives at Copenhagen summit

**Stephen Harper kept a low profile on his first day at the Copenhagen climate summit amid high hopes for a breakthrough over a \$1-trillion American plan.**

While the prime minister hobnobbed with other leaders at a royal dinner hosted by the queen of Denmark, it fell to Environment Minister Jim Prentice to deliver Canada's address to the UN climate talks Thursday.

Prentice's speech came after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton offered to help raise \$100 billion a year for the next decade to

help the most vulnerable nations cope with a warming planet.

That includes an unspecified American contribution which would include mix of public and private money. But there's a couple of catches: countries must agree to a climate deal in Copenhagen, and all must agree to "transparency" in reporting and verifying cuts to greenhouse gases.

The latter condition was clearly directed at China, which has balked at what it sees as an intrusion on its sovereignty.

Clinton said lack of transparency is a "deal breaker" and insisted: "There shall be a transparency requirement."

"It would be hard to imagine, speaking for the United States, that there could be the level of financial commitment that I have just announced in the absence of transparency from the second-biggest emitter — and now I guess the first-biggest emitter — and now nearly, if not already, the second-biggest economy."

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## 'Mankind is inherently good,' Lindhout says

Despite more than a year of abuse at the hands of Somali captors, a Canadian freelance journalist says she still believes people are fundamentally good.



Amanda Lindhout released a statement yesterday thanking her family and others for securing her freedom after 15 months being held hostage in the lawless African nation. An

accompanying photograph showed her smiling broadly next to a white Christmas tree.

"My faith in human decency was sorely tested at times during my captivity; however, after my release, I am humbly reminded that mankind is inherently good by the tremendous efforts and support of fellow Canadians," she wrote.

Lindhout was kidnapped along with Australian photographer Nigel Brennan along a crumbling road in southern Somalia on Aug. 23, 2008. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

[m.metronews.ca](http://m.metronews.ca)



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**the Bay**

A judge has ruled a law banning the wearing of gang colours in Saskatchewan bars violates a person's right to freedom of expression. The case involved Jesse Bitz, 36, a member of the Hells Angels. Bitz was charged under Saskatchewan's Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act in 2007. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Pot use worse than thought: Study

**The effects of daily cannabis use on teenage brains is worse than originally thought and the long-term effects appear to be irreversible, new research from McGill University suggests.**

The study, by Dr. Gabriel Gobbi, a psychiatric researcher from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, suggests that daily cannabis consumption can lead to depression and anxiety.

The new study, published in Neurobiology of Disease, suggests that the reputed "soft" drug has an impact on serotonin and norepinephrine, compounds which help control mood and anxiety.

Her research team observed that 18 rats exposed to cannabis had decreased levels of serotonin, which affects mood; and higher levels of norepinephrine, which makes one more susceptible long-term to stress.

"These permanent changes in the brain are also linked to certain mental illnesses, like schizophrenia," Gobbi said in an interview Thursday.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## News in brief

**OIL SANDS** Ganging up on Alberta's polluting oil sands is becoming a national sport and it's on full display for the world in Copenhagen. But Alberta's Premier Ed Stelmach says his province's oil-rich economy provides the rest of the country with about \$21 billion.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Magna International Inc. and the federal government will announce in Woodbridge, north of Toronto, the creation of a new centre to help develop ultra-light materials for new vehicles. The number of jobs to be created is not known. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Come clean on pensions, Ottawa told

Ottawa is not showing the true cost of the pensions it gives employees, a think tank says.

And it should come clean before it starts re-

forming the retirement-income system, the C.D. Howe Institute says.

It says the federal debt would have climbed an additional \$58 billion over

the past 10 years if Ottawa had valued the pensions it offers public servants.

In the last year alone, if Ottawa had done its math right, pension obligations

would have more than doubled the size of the \$6-billion federal deficit.

"I wouldn't go as far as saying they're cooking the books," said Alexandre

Laurin, senior policy analyst at the think tank.

"But the cost is greater than what the government is actually saying," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Pension pow wow

- Finance ministers from all provinces and Ottawa are meeting in Whitehorse to negotiate how to put retirement income for Canadians on a steady footing.

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The card: Brison and his partner, Maxime St. Pierre, standing in a field with their dog Simba.

## 'Bigots' object to gay MP's card

**GREETINGS** It has all the hallmarks of a politician's glossy Christmas card.

Pastoral setting? Check. Doe-eyed golden retriever? Check. Handsome couple dressed in smart casual? Check.

Same-sex couple?

That was too much for "a handful of bigots" who objected to Scott Brison's holiday greeting card depicting him and spouse Maxime St. Pierre, according to the Nova Scotia Liberal MP.

"The overwhelming response has been very positive," Brison said from Windsor, N.S. "There's always a very, very tiny minority of bigots. It's their problem, it's not my problem."

At least one news website had to shut down its comments section running under a story about the card. The Globe and Mail web editor said the section was shut down because of "hateful and homophobic remarks."

Toronto Star blogger Susan Delacourt tried a pre-emptive approach: She closed off comments before any vitriol could be posted.

"So crazy hateful people should probably just walk away from the keyboard now," she wrote. "Yes, backward, just like that, slowly, hands in the air."



MP Scott Brison

**"There's always a very, very tiny minority of bigots. It's their problem. It's not my problem."**

Scott Brison

There you go. Get outdoors; it'll be good for you."

But Matt Mills, editorial director of the gay news group Pink Triangle Press, said it's a mistake to block homophobes.

"Gay and lesbian people do know that homophobia exists and is expressed all the time," he said.

"Our approach is that shutting down comments when there are homophobic remarks that come out really just drives that homophobia underground."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The daughter of an 87-year-old woman whose corpse was kept in her house for seven months after she died appeared in court in North Carolina Thursday. A sheriff's deputy said that the woman's family had continued to collect her government pension checks after she died. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# World



## Berlusconi released from hospital

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was discharged from a Milan hospital on Thursday, four days after he was attacked by a mentally ill man at a political rally. The 73-year-old leader suffered a fractured nose and broken teeth in the attack. TV footage, left, of him leaving San Raffaele Hospital showed the conservative leader and media mogul with a white bandage around his nose and face as he waved weakly with one hand.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Drought hammers East Africa again

**AFRICA** Millions of people in drought-stricken East Africa face hunger after seasonal rains failed again, withering crops, killing livestock and drying up ponds and streams, an aid group said Thursday. Oxfam said some areas had received less than five per cent of normal rainfall for November. African delegates in Copenhagen have repeatedly accused rich countries of polluting with greenhouse gases and then leaving underdeveloped countries to deal with the resulting drought and starvation.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Scan this barcode for a daily video report from Copenhagen, or watch it at metronews.ca/world

## Getting closer in Copenhagen?

U.S., China make progress as clock ticks away for global climate deal

**Large pieces of a climate deal fell into place Thursday with new offers from the U.S. and China, but other tough issues remained before American President Barack Obama and other leaders can sign off on a political accord to contain the threat of an overheated world.**

An announcement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that the United States would contribute to a climate change fund amounting to \$100 billion US a year by 2020 was quickly followed by an offer from China to open its books on carbon emissions and fight climate change.

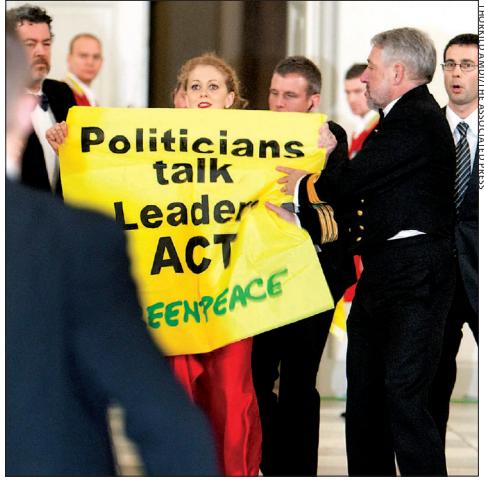
The U.S. delegation did not immediately react to the offer by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei.

Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao were to join more than 110 leaders Friday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

But it went a long way toward the U.S. demand that China report on its actions to limit the growth of Beijing's carbon emissions and allow experts to go over its data. The sudden concessions on the eve of Friday's final session lifted hopes that the 193-nation conference could reach a framework agreement that could be refined into a legal accord next year on limiting greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change.

Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao were to join more than 110 leaders Friday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Go Green**



Activists from Greenpeace gatecrash a State Dinner hosted by the Queen of Denmark Thursday. The activists were arrested.

### News in brief

**IRELAND** A Roman Catholic bishop in Ireland has resigned after an investigation into child sex abuse by clergymen accused him of ignoring reports of crimes by priests in his diocese, the Vatican said Thursday. A statement Donal Murray read to colleagues in the western Irish city of Limerick left no doubt that he was going because of an Irish government investigation's damning findings about his time as an auxiliary bishop in Dublin from 1982 to 1996.

**FRANCE** New airline safety standards may be required after the crash of Air France Flight 447 cast doubt on the reliability of speed-measuring equipment in stormy conditions, French investigators said Thursday. The Airbus A330 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Brazil in June, killing all 228 people aboard. Accident experts still have little idea about why the plane went down.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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the  Bay

An Indiana doctor on the run for five years on charges of fraud and malpractice was arrested on a snowy mountain in northern Italy, and stabbed himself in the neck as he was taken into custody, police said. Mark Weinberger, 46, had been living in a tent, police in the town of Aosta said Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## DNA exonerates man after 35 years

**FLORIDA** James Bain made his first-ever cellphone call Thursday, dialling his mother to tell her he had been freed after 35 years in jail for a crime he did not commit. Mobile devices didn't exist in 1974, when he was sentenced to life for kidnapping a nine-year-old boy and raping him. Bain had spent more time in prison than any of the 246 inmates previously exonerated by DNA evidence in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Study shows body language bias

Through a set of ingeniously concocted experiments reported in Friday's journal Science, researchers show that white characters in TV series display far more negative body language toward their black peers than to members of their own race.

The bias conveyed by these body clues is not only recognized subconsciously by people who watch the

shows, but significantly influences their feelings about the black characters.

"Sadly, we observed that non-verbal race bias is a typical pattern on scripted television shows," lead study author Max Weisbuch said in a release on the paper.

In the first experiment, researchers used clips from 11 different television programs — including Bones, Grey's Anatomy, CSI and

Scrub — and digitally removed one of the characters participating in the scenes. They then muted any onscreen conversations and recruited college students who had never seen the episodes to watch.

"We took out the target character, who was either black or white, and the (remaining) character was always white," senior study author Nalini Ambady said.

"Then we just showed

people and said 'how much does this person like the person they're interacting with?'" said Ambady, a Tufts University social psychologist.

The student viewers, it was found, consistently judged the body language expressed by the visible white characters as more negative whenever the unseen character in the scene was black.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## News in brief

**BRAZIL** The stepfather of a two-year-old boy found with 42 needles in his body confessed to stabbing them into the toddler during weeks of rituals with a woman he claimed received instructions through trances. Brazilian police said Thursday. Roberto Carlos Magalhaes, a 30-year-old bricklayer, told detectives that the woman would go into a trance and "command him to stick the needles in the boy's body." The child, meanwhile, remains in serious condition in hospital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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pw, pl, cruise, a/c, cd, auto, quad cab, 20" wheels - 46k  
**\$197** Bi-weekly tax in 84 months  
**\$23,995**

**2006 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT**  
pw, pl, cruise, a/c, cd, auto, quad cab - 46k  
**\$188** Bi-weekly tax in 72 months  
**\$20,995**

**2007 Toyota Corolla S**  
pw, pl, cruise, a/c, cd, manual, sunroof, body kit - 36k  
**\$185** Bi-weekly tax in 72 months  
**\$13,995**

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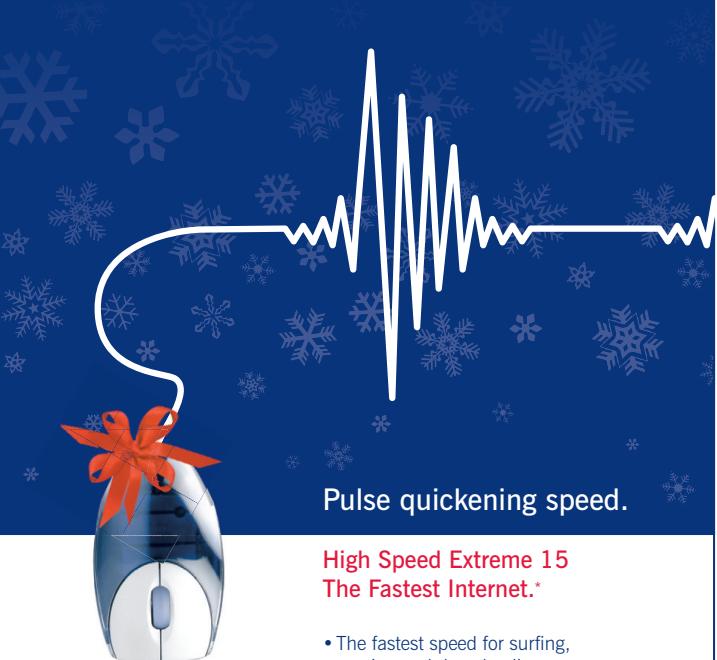
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**Foreign adoptions plunge in U.S.**

The number of foreign children adopted by American citizens dropped by 27 per cent in the 2009 fiscal year, reaching the lowest level since 1996. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Mean munchies on menu**

Any slacker living over his parents' garage can make pot brownies, but gourmet chefs are taking the art of cooking with marijuana to a higher level.

In Denver, a new medical marijuana shop called Ganja Gourmet serves cannabis-infused specialties.

The evolution of pot cooking has followed an explosion of medical marijuana in recent years. Many health-conscious patients would rather eat the



Steve Horowitz, owner of the Ganja Gourmet shop.

drug than smoke it, and they're looking for more options than brownies.

Ganja Gourmet's menu includes lasagna ("LaGan-

ja"), "Panama Red Pizza" and an olive tapenade called "ganjanade," along with sweets such as cheesecake and muffins.

Employees wear tie-dyed T-shirts that proclaim, "Our food is so great, you need a license to eat it!!!" All patrons must show a medical marijuana card.

Diners are allowed one item every 45 minutes, though 90 per cent of the business is takeout. A whole pizza sells for \$89.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Weekend, December 18-20, 2009

**18 world**

American pursues custody battle in Brazil  
An American father arrived in Brazil Thursday, hoping to win a five-year fight for custody of his son, who lives with relatives of his deceased wife. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## U.S. hunts drug cash

**Every day, criminals shove money from U.S. drug sales in their shoes, tape it to their torsos, stash it under dashboards — or just wire it electronically to Mexico. It all adds up to \$25 billion a year.**

A highly touted U.S. Treasury Department program aimed at starving Mexican drug cartels of that cash is currently blocking just \$3 million, an Associated Press investigation has found.

That's in addition to \$58 million seized under a new initiative at the U.S.-Mexico border. The figures suggest

that \$99.75 of every \$100 the cartels ship south is getting through. The money is fueling a war that has killed 14,000 in three years.

Bundles of \$100 bills that add up to billions are sneaked in each year and then laundered into ostensibly legitimate funds at car dealerships, banks, pharmacies, restaurants and resorts.

That money pays Mexican farmers to grow more marijuana and Colombian smugglers to sneak in more cocaine. It bribes Mexican soldiers and U.S. border patrol agents, and pays assassins to kill rival smugglers or prosecutors.

"This is the brilliance of the drug cartels. They pay ordinary people to get cash across the border for them, and then easily launder it into working capital," said Louise Shelley, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center director at George Mason University.

U.S. law enforcement agents have recently tried to get tough on controlling the money, searching southbound cars at the border and freezing bank accounts of cartel bosses.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## 'Froggy' saved a Canadian — will Canada save him?

**Froggy cannot forget the horrific blast.**

It was June 2008, as hundreds of Canadian and Afghan soldiers swept through villages in the dangerous Panjwaii district.

Froggy was sticking close to the man he calls "my major." A six-year medic in the Afghan National Army, Mohammad Rahman, 42, picked up his nickname because of his raspy voice. The married father of seven was

lured from the Afghan army to be an interpreter for the Canadian military.

That day, Froggy's major, Maj. Mark Campbell, lost both his legs in an explosion.

Froggy applied what were likely life-saving tourniquets. The pair still keep in "Froggy" touch.

Froggy, who has received death threats from the Taliban, demanding he

cease his work as an interpreter with the Canadian government to grant him entry to Canada, along with his wife, four daughters and three sons.

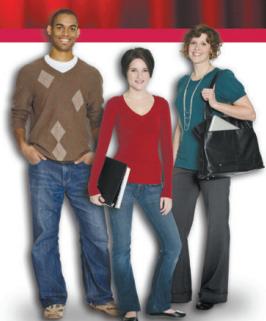
"I request from the government of Canada ... to think of us, because we are working for Canadians very honestly," he said.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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# Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

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## Comment

## What's the sound of stories not told?

## UrbanCompass

Stephen Kimber



ber of unsolved murders. I'll save the specifics of Walker's complaints for another column.

Today I want to talk about something Walker said, almost in passing, as he criticized the fact I'd written about the board without having sat through one of its (often brief) meetings. "Nobody covers us anymore," he lamented.

It's true. There was a time when reporters from both daily newspapers routinely showed up for its meetings. But then the Daily News folded and, this spring, the

Chronicle Herald eliminated 25 per cent of its newsroom staff. Now, no reporters cover a board that is supposed to provide civilian oversight of our police force.

What is the sound of stories not being told?

While it won't rank up there with the election of our first NDP government, or Tiger Woods Master's Tournament of Transgressions, my candidate for the most important story of the year — the decade, in fact — is the continuing implosion of the traditional news-

paper in cities across North America. Including Halifax.

I know, I know. I'm self interested. I'm a journalist. I teach journalism.

But I'm also a citizen. And I worry about the consequences of not knowing.

There's a disconnect, of course. We now have far more sources of information than ever before. The web, cellphone video, citizen journalism, free dailies like this one. But do we know as much?

I confess I was among the skeptics when Metro launched following the de-

mise of the Daily News. I happily eat crow. Thanks to an above-and-beyond collection of young journalists, Metro continually punches above its weight among local media. But even those responsible for Metro would acknowledge it was never intended to replace full-meal-deal newspapers like the Daily News. Neither was news talk radio.

And that's the problem. If there's no media outlet — print or otherwise — whose job it is to report on mundane happenings at the police commission, the school

board, the planning department. How will we know what we don't know when there's something we need to?

My hope for the new year is that someone figures it all out. We need journalism.

\*\*\*\*

Since the next two Fridays are holidays, allow me to thank you for reading, and wish you and yours a happy holiday and the best in the new year.

Stephen Kimber, the Rogers Communications Chair in Journalism at the University of King's College, is the author of eight books.

## Views

## Girls and women: No limits on dreams



Belinda Stronach

Over the past generation our society has made considerable progress in reducing barriers to women's success. Yet, despite our progress, troubling inequalities persist and affect the lives of millions of girls and young women around the world.

In developing countries, one person in eight is a girl or a young woman age 10 to 24. As the fastest growing segment of the population,

their welfare is a fundamental input for key economic and social outcomes. Giving these girls an education, legal protection, health care, and access to training and job skills will significantly contribute to what is known as the girl effect on development. A girl who finishes high school has access to a job that pays more than subsistence wages and the chance to start a small business. Educated women invest 90 per cent of their incomes into their families, compared to roughly 30 per cent by their male counterparts.

The gap between what

we know and what we do, between our ability to end poverty and our efforts to do so lie at the heart of the problem. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) challenge the world's leading economies to meet targets framed in results-oriented terms. MDG 3, for example, calls to promote gender equality and empower women. The target was to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. Four years after the 2005 target date, gender parity in education has yet to be

achieved. As Canada prepares to host the G8 and G20 summits in June 2010, we must use this historic opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the advancement of girls and women worldwide. Canada must take the lead and call to put girls and women at the centre of the development narrative. Doing so will yield huge returns in the health of families, peace building, and global economic development.

For more, visit [www.girlsandwomen.com](http://www.girlsandwomen.com).

Belinda Stronach is chair of the Belinda Stronach Foundation.

**Tell us your views by email to [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca) or comment on [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) or on Twitter @metrohalifax**

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Michael De Adder

**British Airways to fly over holidays**

British Airways has won an emergency court injunction to stop a 12-day strike by its cabin crew, bringing relief to around one million travellers whose Christmas holiday plans were threatened by the planned walkout. The High Court backed BA's claim that the ballot of around 13,000 workers by the Unite labour union was illegal. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# Business



EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Inflation jumps again

Second straight month of rising prices reverses negative slide

**Canadians are again starting to pay more for most things they consume as the inflation rate jumped to one per cent in November, the second straight month prices have risen sharply.**

While higher gasoline prices were mostly to blame, Statistics Canada said the advance was broad-based. Prices rose in seven of eight major components tracked by the agency, and in all 10 provinces.

As well, the month-to-month index was higher with prices rising 0.5 per cent from October.

The last two months have seen a complete reversal in the inflation story in Canada, which previously was one of falling prices and negative inflation.

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Cedar Fair LP, which operates Canada's Wonderland and other parks, will be sold to asset manager Apollo Global Management for about \$635 million US in cash. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## 22 business

# Now for sale: nuke reactors

Ottawa is formally inviting offers as it seeks to privatize the nuclear reactor division of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

In announcing the request for "investor proposals," Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt said the goal is to boost AECL's global presence while reducing the financial risk carried by taxpayers. The research-and-technology division of the Crown corporation, including the Chalk River laboratories and its troubled medical isotope production,

are not part of the government sale.

A National Bank study commissioned by the Conservative government determined there is "significant private sector interest" in a stand-alone CANDU reactor business.

However the government may have undercut its own bargaining position when Prime Minister Stephen Harper's chief spokesman described AECL as a "dysfunctional" \$30-billion "sink-hole" last June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marketing Still the best image?



This poster of Tiger Woods in a Swiss watch shop in Beijing may come down soon. Advertisers are rethinking their association with him as public scrutiny of his personal life continues.

## U.S. jobless claims dropping slowly

A report on unemployment claims and a forecast of U.S. economic activity pointed yesterday to an American economy mending slowly.

The number of newly laid-off workers filing

claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly rose last week, but the four-week average for jobless claims fell. That was seen as encouraging sign.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## RIM reports email delays

**DELAY** Research in Motion says some of its BlackBerry smartphone customers in North America are experiencing delays receiving

email.

RIM says it has technicians working on the problem.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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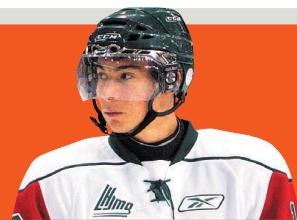
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# Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOUILL@METRONEWS.CA



## Gelinas gets rookie award

Halifax Mooseheads rookie winger Carl Gelinas, left, has been named his team's winner of the RDS mid-season rookie excellence award. The 17-year-old was fourth in scoring prior to last night with nine goals and 11 assists in 35 games.

METRO HALIFAX

# Revamped roster ready to go

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**With a packed Metro Centre set to greet them, the Halifax Rainmen are ready to hit the hardwood.**

The Rainmen, after more than two weeks of grueling practices and intra-squad scrimmages, will end a nine-month off-season when they host the Manchester Millrats on Saturday at 7 p.m. in Premier Basketball League pre-season action.

A revamped 13-man roster featuring just three returnees from last season and five first-year pros will be unveiled to what could be the largest crowd in franchise history courtesy of a promotion that handed out 10,000 free tickets.

"We've been working hard since the first day of training camp," said guard Lonell Shuler-Jones, a rookie pro.

"I'm excited. It's going to be a great experience and I hope the fans love it and I hope they keep coming out every night."

With so many new faces,

head coach Les Berry and owner Andre Livingston will use the pre-season to determine how to divvy up floor time, with starting jobs still up for grabs.

The only thing you can take to the bank at the moment is that the Rainmen will count heavily on their proven veterans — notably guard Tony Bennett, swingman Desmond Ferguson and forwards Gordon Malone and Eric Crookshank.

Point guard Gary Ervin, from the NBA D-League, and 6-foot-11 Mark McCarroll are also in mix for starting jobs.

Shuler-Jones along with fellow rookies Jevohn Shepherd, Adris Deleon and Shagari Alleyne are among those who can vault into prominence with strong pre-seasons.

"It's a tremendous opportunity," Shuler-Jones said.

"Everybody is competing for a spot and time and at the same time we're competing to help each other win games."

Livingston, unhappy with last year's non-playoff

### Schedule

Halifax Rainmen pre-season schedule at the Metro Centre.

- **SATURDAY:** Manchester vs. Halifax, 7 p.m.
- **SUNDAY:** Quebec vs. Halifax, 2 p.m.
- **MONDAY:** Vermont vs. Halifax, 7 p.m.

finish, is eager to see how his new-look roster stacks up.

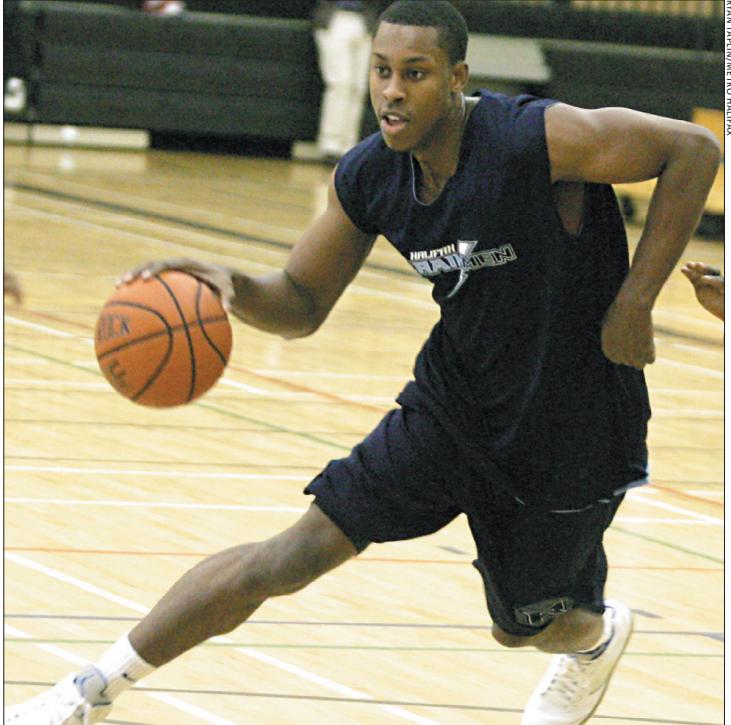
"All I know right now is, we look good on paper," Livingston said.

"We've been going against each other for a month and now we get to go against some fresh meat. When the bright lights come on, you get to see how guys respond."

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Jevohn Shepherd drives to the basket during a Halifax Rainmen training camp scrimmage earlier this month.

## Corbeil leads Herd to stunning upset over Sea Dogs

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**QMJHL** The Halifax Mooseheads kicked the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's best team while it was down.

With the Saint John Sea Dogs already reeling after their incredible 22-game winning streak was snapped on Sunday, the Mooseheads strolled into Harbour Station on Thursday and stunned the na-

tionally-second-ranked club in a 4-2 upset victory.

It was an unlikely outcome in a battle of worst versus first, but the Mooseheads — backed by Mathieu Corbeil's goaltending — broke open a 2-2 tie in the third period with goals from Jessyko Bernard at 8:54 and Carl Gelinas at 14:37.

Corbeil turned aside 33 shots and was the first star while the Mooseheads killed off five of six penalties.

"I won't lie, it feels good to beat a team like that," said Mooseheads head coach Cam Russell.

"They're a team with a lot of skill and ability. We had a lot of penalties to kill off and Corbeil was strong when we needed him."

Making the win Jessyko Bernard most impressive was the fact the Mooseheads were without two of their top defencemen, Gar-

rett Clarke (groin) and Steve Gillard (charley horse), as well as captain and leading scorer Tomas Knotek, who left Wednesday to join the Czech Republic at the world junior championship.

Rookie blueliner Jamie Bishop, playing in just his second career game, had an assist and was the third star, while fellow 16-year-old defender Trey Lewis made his Q debut.

The defence, as a whole, played well," Russell said.

Charles Bety and Pascal Amyot had the other goals as the Mooseheads improved to 8-2-3.

The Mooseheads face the Sea Dogs again on Friday at the Metro Centre and then don't return to action until Sunday, Dec. 27, when they host the Moncton Wildcats.

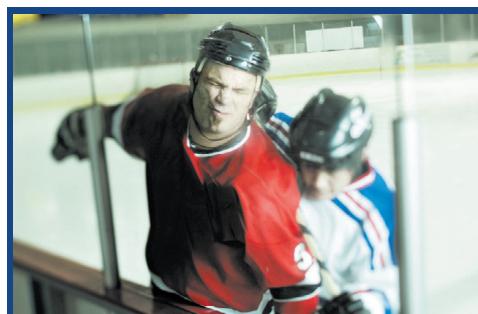
## Lions come close against Slammers

**HOCKEY** The Halifax Lions took the Woodstock Slammers to the final 20 minutes and then let it slip away.

The Slammers scored twice in the third period to snap a 3-3 tie and remain unbeaten at 27-0-1, beating the Lions 5-3 in Maritime Junior A Hockey League play at the Forum.

Kyle Mariani, Stuart Lenehan and Travis Perry found the net for the Lions, who dropped to 10-12-2.

METRO HALIFAX



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**Bombers coach arrested, fired**

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers have fired head coach Mike Kelly. Bombers board chairman Ken Hildahl made the announcement at a news conference Thursday night. Earlier in the day Kelly was arrested in Pennsylvania in an alleged domestic dispute, but Hildahl said the coach's dismissal was solely related to the team's on field performance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Sports in brief**

**FIGHTING** Vancouver city council has approved a two-year trial period for mixed martial arts, opening the door for an Ultimate Fighting Championship show in the city as soon as next summer. Councillors voted six to three Thursday to allow Vancouver to regulate and sanction the combat sport, which is expected to generate millions of dollars for the local economy.

**WOODS** Michael Phelps expressed sympathy for Tiger Woods and his family Thursday because of the scrutiny resulting from the golfer's admitted infidelity. "He's going through a hard time right now I assume — I've no idea what he is going through — but it can't be easy, I just wish him the best for himself and his family," said Phelps, who is in Manchester, England, for the "Duel in the Pool" swim meet. "I'd be the first to admit I've made a lot of mistakes both in and out of the pool."

**WORLD CUP** Brazil will spend \$280 million US to renovate Maracana Stadium, closing the historic venue next year to spruce up the centrepiece of the 2014 World Cup. Opened for the 1950 World Cup, Maracana is expected to be reopened in December 2012, government officials said Thursday.

**AUOETTES** The Montreal Alouettes have rewarded head coach Marc Trestman for leading the team to the Grey Cup championship. The Alouettes have reached an agreement with Trestman that will keep him with Montreal through the 2012 season.

**SKI TEAM** The Canadian ski team took another blow Thursday when veteran Kelly VanderBeek suffered a suspected torn ACL in her left knee during World Cup downhill training. VanderBeek, 26, is the third Canadian skier this week and the fourth in less than a month to be injured. She finished fourth in the super-giant slalom at the 2006 Turin Olympics and was considered a medal threat at the 2010 Games.

**SNOWBOARDING** Jasey-Jay Anderson and Michael Lambert swept the top two spots at a World Cup men's parallel giant slalom snowboarding competition Thursday. Anderson, of Mont-Tremblant, Que., edged out Lambert in the final for his 25th career World Cup victory across all disciplines. The result was a positive one for Lambert, as well: The Toronto native picked up the first of three top-5 results needed to automatically qualify for the Olympics.

**METS** Hoping they found their setup man on the other side of the globe, the New York Mets agreed Thursday with Japanese reliever Ryota Igarashi on a \$3-million US, two-year contract.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Canada's hidden treasures

**FieldofPlay**

**Scott Russell**

Every time the Lou Marsh Award pops up all Canadian sports fans get an eye-opener. There's a ton of talent out there.

The mystery is why most of the candidates that make it to the final ballot for consideration as Canada's athlete of the year are anonymous to most people in this country.

This year, Sidney Crosby, the brilliant captain of the Stanley Cup

champion Pittsburgh Penguins, captured the prize named after the late Toronto Star sports editor — an award that dates back to 1936 and whose recipients have included Wayne Gretzky, Barbara Ann Scott, Catriona Le May Doan and Mike Weir.

For Crosby it's a second victory, and well-deserved, considering he's the best Canadian hockey player alive and led his team to arguably the most difficult championship to capture in North American professional sport.

Just about everybody knows Sid the Kid's name. The same is true of Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns, a perennial finalist because he's the best play-maker in big-time basketball.

But that's where the familiarity gets fuzzy. It's a revelation to discover that Canada also

boasts sluggers like Jason Bay and Justin Morneau, each capable of more than 100 RBIs in Major League Baseball. Or that Daniel Nestor, the best doubles player in tennis, hails from north of the border.

If you dig deeper you understand that world champions like Christine Nesbitt of speedskating, John Kucera of alpine skiing, Jasey Jay Anderson of snowboarding and Alexandre Bilodeau of freestyle skiing also bleed red and white.

This is to say nothing of swimmer Ryan Cochrane, who won two medals at the world aquatics championships, or Priscilla Lopes-Schliep, a hurdler who captured silver at the world track and field summit.

They are Canadians close to the pinnacle of the most contested sports on the face of the Earth.

The names already mentioned barely scratch the surface.

There are golfers, mixed martial artists, figure skaters and football players who also deserve consideration.

There are so many jewels of Canadian sport we have yet to fully appreciate. Maybe we should make the Lou Marsh Award more than a one-day deliberation that seems so fleeting.

Perhaps we should make it more inclusive and spark a national celebration, so that all Canadians might uncover our hidden treasures of sport.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

## SCOREBOARD

### NHL

#### THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 3 Montreal 1  
Atlanta 6 Dallas 5 (OT)  
Detroit 3 Tampa Bay 0  
NY Rangers 5 N.Y. Islanders 2  
Phoenix 2 Columbus 1 (SO)

Pittsburgh 3 Philadelphia 2 (SO)  
Los Angeles at Calgary  
Nashville at Edmonton  
Anaheim at San Jose

#### FRIDAY GAMES

Ottawa at New Jersey  
Toronto at Buffalo  
Carolina at Florida

### NBA

#### THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 98 New York 89  
Orlando at Miami  
Phoenix at Portland

Dallas at Golden State  
Washington at Golden State

#### FRIDAY GAMES

New Jersey at Toronto  
Utah at Atlanta  
Philadelphia at Boston  
Detroit at Oklahoma City  
Sacramento at Minnesota

### NFL

#### THURSDAY'S RESULT

Indianapolis 35 Jacksonville 31  
SATURDAY GAME

Dallas at New Orleans

#### For late game scores, please visit

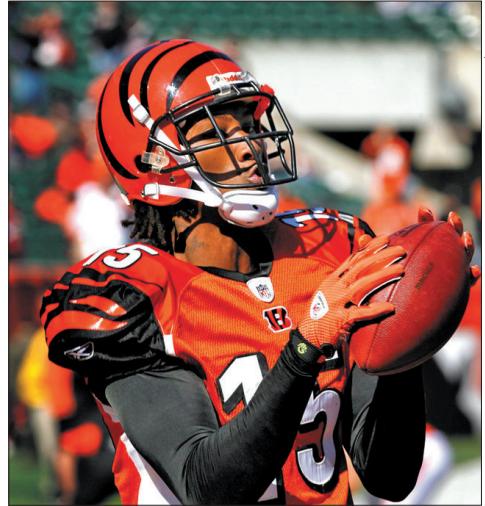
metronews.ca/sports

## Bengals receiver dies after falling from truck

Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry died Thursday, a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck during what police said was a domestic dispute with his fiancée.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police said Henry died at 6:36 a.m. Henry was 26.

"We knew him in a different way than his public persona," Bengals owner Mike Brown said of the player who was suspended five times during his career. "He had worked through the troubles in his life and had finally seemingly reached the point where everything was going to blossom. And he was going to have the future we all wanted for him. It's painful to us. We feel it in our hearts, and we will miss him." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry died Thursday, a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck.

  
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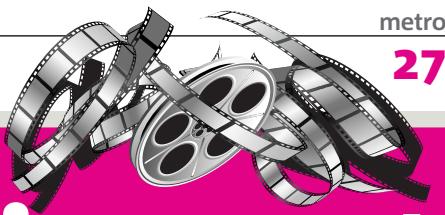
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# Movies & Entertainment

## Movies

### Detective work



Pg 28

Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law team up for the most recent film version detailing the antics of famous detective Sherlock Holmes. For his part, Downey Jr. says he went back to historical source material to convey an accurate portrayal.

## Movies

Pg 30



Avatar is a truly immersive experience, says reviewer.

## Music

Pg 33



Jackson's guitarist Orianthi Panagaris has a new album.

## Television

Pg 35



Dsquared2 design twins are enjoying the limelight.

**3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS**

BEST ACTOR      BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR      BEST DIRECTOR

MORGAN FREEMAN      MATT DAMON      CLINT EASTWOOD

MORGAN FREEMAN      MATT DAMON      CLINT EASTWOOD

RUGBY WORLD CUP

PG COARSE LANGUAGE

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# 28 movies&entertainment

## Movies

●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

### Basterds, Precious, Up in the Air lead SAG Awards noms

**AWARDS** Up in the Air, Precious and Inglourious Basterds led the Screen Actors Guild Awards with three nominations each Thursday, among them honours for George Clooney, Diane Kruger and Mo'Nique.

The Second World War rewrite Inglourious Basterds and the Harlem story Precious: Based on the Novel Push By Sapphire are competing for the guild's overall cast prize, along with the 1960s British drama An Education, the Iraq War tale The Hurt Locker and the musical Nine.

The corporate-downsizing tale Up in the Air was shut out of that category but scored a lead-actor nomination for Clooney as a frequent-flyer whiz and two supporting-actress slots, for Vera Farmiga as his new love and Anna Kendrick as his new protege. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# Downey grooves with Sherlock

NED EHRBAR  
Metro World News

**Robert Downey Jr. has an admittedly difficult history with London. "I was here 20 years ago and the food sucked," he says, though he's quick to add, "I kind of sucked 20 years ago. Far be it from me to say what was good when and where. I barely remember any of it." But with his new Sherlock Holmes set for release next week, he's feeling better about all things British.**

In bringing a new version of the famous detective to the screen, Downey was expecting more of the pressure of history. "It's funny. Sherlock Holmes would be the one you'd think has the most onus on it," he says of the characters he's played. But during filming, he insists, he got the distinct feeling they were doing everything right. "Sometimes you just feel like you're in the right groove, and you



Robert Downey Jr. couldn't have asked for a better co-star than Jude Law, he says.

feel the history and the legacy of something," he says. "Sometimes you just feel like you're being silently approved of from some other place and time."

A key element in rounding out Holmes was finding a Watson he worked well with, and Downey insists he couldn't have asked for a better co-star than Jude Law. "I'm used to people

saying, 'Well you and so-and-so who's female have this great chemistry,'" Downey says. "They're talking about Jude and I like we should be doing romantic comedies together."

While Downey's Holmes might not be something audiences necessarily find familiar, the actor insists it's a more accurate portrayal. "We were reinterpreting that character by actually

going back to the source material — what he looked like, how he behaved, that he was a martial artist," Downey says.

While talk of martial arts and fighting has several Hollywood observers nervous, it was the bare-knuckle boxing scene that sealed the deal for Downey. "By the time we were done shooting that scene, I felt like we really had a handle

### On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

on the movie," he says. "Not because we finally top-lit me and I showed my rippling abs and all that self-important garbage, but because it was a really bold thing and it could've gone really poorly, in which case the rest of the movie is trying to recover from a bad Guy Ritchie idea. But it was literally perfect, and I think it set the tone."

Looking forward, Downey is more than happy to be tied up with a successful pair of franchises. "Ideally, the Iron Man thing will pan out another time or two, a bit of Avengers going on. I have a feeling Sherlock is going to make a comeback. I think it's going to be well-received and do business."

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— Larry Carroll, MTV.COM



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**Daryl Hannah says no to plastic cups**

Daryl Hannah wants everyone to ditch plastic cups. The 49-year-old actress — who is a long-time environmental activist and has been arrested several times — said she wants the world to become more aware of the environment. [FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK](http://FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK)

**Movies**

\*\*\*\*\* A CLASSIC; \*\*\*\*\* EXCELLENT; \*\*\* GOOD; \*\* FAIR; \* POOR

# Hudson sings along

**AARTI VIRANI**  
Metro World News

The last time we were treated to the vocal stylings of Kate Hudson — really more of a warbled rendition of You're So Vain in 2003's *How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days* — we didn't necessarily want more. But the actress executes an impressive double play as she shimmies and croons (soulfully, might we add) in Rob Marshall's latest film, *Nine*.

As one of the seven big-name beauties gracing Marshall's epic musical about the mid-life crisis of a prolific 1960s Italian film director, Guido Contini (Daniel Day-Lewis), Hudson shares the limelight with a constellation of muses: Nicole Kidman, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Judi Dench, Stacy (Fergie) Ferguson and Sophia Loren. She plays Stephanie, a sultry American, Vogue journalist, smitten with all things Italian — Contini included.



Kate Hudson sings and dances alongside Daniel Day-Lewis in *Nine*.

But even though Hudson certainly exudes mystique during her catchy, popping number, Cinema Italiano, it didn't necessarily come naturally.

"I've come out of a contemporary jazz background but there are no flexed feet or pirouettes here," she admits. "It's a very difficult song to sing — fast, articulate and belty. It took Rob (Marshall) to sort of push that out of me ... and I wasn't going to let him down."

**Curtain calling**

While growing up in Colorado, Hudson spent many

an afternoon reenacting a slew of musicals, including *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and her all-time favorite, *Annie*.

"I didn't want to be Annie as much as I wanted to play Annie," she says. As to whether she's passed the performer genes on to her six-year-old son, Ryder, she's not sure, though he did insist on dressing up as a one-man Mariachi band this past Halloween. "He wanted to wear the big sombrero," she says sheepishly. "And he still wears the outfit."

**"ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES ABOUT THE THEATER I'VE EVER SEEN."**

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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GLOBE AND MAIL

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PG MATURE THEME, COARSE LANGUAGE

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# 30 movies&entertainment

## Reel Time

★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★ GOOD; ★ FAIR; ● POOR

### You'd rather not hear about the Morgans

#### Did You Hear About The Morgans

**Director:** Marc Lawrence

**Stars:** Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker, Sam Elliott

**Classification:** PG

**Rating:** ●½

**PHIL BROWN**  
for Metro Canada

In general Hollywood romantic comedies are un-

believable star vehicles with reheated plotlines that are predictable from the first scene.

Expectations have to be lowered for most movies of this type because rom-com audiences simply don't want deviations in the established formula. However, from time to time something like Did You Hear About The Morgans comes along that is so ludicrous and clichéd

that even people who enjoy these sorts of movies have to admit it's a failure.

Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker star as an estranged married couple and will surprise no one by appearing as a befuddled British lawyer and wealthy go-getter New Yorker respectively.

There's no semblance of reality here, it's a universe governed by clichés.

#### Friday August 6th:



**Johnny Reid**



**George Canyon**



**One More Girl**

#### Saturday August 7th:



**Alan Jackson**



**Billy Currington**



**Kevin Costner & Modern West**



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Avatar, staring Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana, is described by our reviewer as mesmerizing.

## Cameron's Avatar well worth the wait

#### Avatar

**Director:** James Cameron

**Stars:** Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Giovani Ribisi

**Classification:** STC

**Rating:** ●●●½

**NED EHRBAR**  
Metro World News

**The best word to describe watching James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar is, overwhelming. The tech-savvy director has created a truly immersive experience, utilizing 3-D and motion capture technology to create the brand-new, vibrant world of Pandora, and its slender, yellow-eyed, blue-skinned inhabitants, the Na'vi.**

#### inhabitants, the Na'vi.

The smartest thing Cameron does is keep the story simple. It's something we've seen before: A native population stands in the way of the goals of an invading force — in this case, humans led by a greedy corporate honcho (Giovani Ribisi) and a marine colonel (Stephen Lang) displaying Apocalypse Now levels of menace.

As Sam Worthington's Jake is sent, via a human/Na'vi hybrid body (or avatar), to infiltrate the Na'vi, he falls in love with one of their own (Zoe Saldana) and takes their side. With an unchallenging story, Cameron leaves plenty

of room for the technical splendor to do the heavy lifting, and he strikes a great balance.

The film isn't perfect, of course. Some of the exchanges and declarations are rather clunky, as dialogue was never really Cameron's strong suit. And there are several less-than-subtle criticisms of Bush administration foreign policy — something that apparently can happen when it takes five years to complete a film. But the overall effect is mesmerizing and well worth the wait.

• For an Avatar trailer, photos, and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit [metronews.ca/movies](http://metronews.ca/movies).



**Hathaway in car crash**

Anne Hathaway was involved in a traffic collision in Los Angeles Wednesday afternoon. The 27-year-old movie beauty was sitting on the passenger seat of a car driven by her actor boyfriend, Adam Shulman, when the vehicle collided with a cyclist. [ACESHOWBIZ.COM](http://ACESHOWBIZ.COM)

**Reel Time**

\*\*\*\*\* A CLASSIC; \*\*\*\* EXCELLENT; \*\*\* GOOD; \*\* FAIR; \* POOR

# Cameron is simply a perfectionist

**InFocus****Richard Crouse**

mrchaos33@hotmail.com

In the gap between James Cameron's last theatrical feature, *Titanic*, and his new film, *Avatar* (in theatres this weekend) Clint Eastwood directed 11 movies, Michael Bay made six and even Uwe Boll, a director so reviled an on-line petition demands he stop making films, has made 15 in the time it took Cameron to make just one.

So what's the hold up?

Some suggest Cameron takes so long between gigs because his commitment to his projects is so intense he wants to be sure he is on the right track before camera starts to roll.

"I want you to know one thing," he allegedly told one producer, "once we embark



James Cameron has Stanley Kubrick-like dedication to his movies.

on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me."

Also, Cameron isn't

bound by the same considerations as most directors. He wrote the script for *Avatar* in 1994 and was prepared to wait until special

**"Once we embark on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me."**

James Cameron

effects technology caught up with his vision.

The luxury of having time is what happens when you make the highest grossing movie in history, a fact he celebrates, wearing a t-shirt that reads "Time Means Nothing in the Face of Creativity."

Like Cameron, Stanley Kubrick spent more time off movie sets than on. In a career that spanned 46 years he made only 13 movies but spent years developing pictures that never went into production — like *Napoleon*, an epic look at the life of the French Emperor that he expected to be "the best movie ever made."

Others choose long lay-

offs between projects for different reasons. Actor Casey Affleck (Ben's younger brother) had three movies released in 2007 but nothing else scheduled until 2010. Why the break? "To be perfectly honest, I don't really enjoy playing anybody," he says, "except Casey Affleck lying on the couch watching the Red Sox ... usually, when I'm working, I'm not really having a good time."

Then there's Daniel Day-Lewis, an actor whose lapses between projects makes

Affleck look like a workaholic. *The There Will Be Blood* star routinely takes years off between films, once disappearing from the big screen for five years. When asked why he doesn't work more often he said, "I like to cook things very slowly. I learnt early on that I couldn't jump from one kind of work to another. I did it a couple of times and it didn't work."

Richard Crouse is the author of *Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen* and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.



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**metro**

## Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 18 TO THURS., DEC. 24. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

## HALIFAX

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**2012** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:35-4:10-7:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-4:10-7:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 12:35-4:10-7:40  
**Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (G) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed 12:45-3:50-6:35-9:15 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 12:25-2:50

**Armored** (14) Dolby Stereo Fri 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Sat-Wed 1:10-4:10-7:15-10 Dolby Stereo Thu 12:30-3:15

**Avatar 3D** (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 12:20-12:45-1:30-4:30-6:45-8:30 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 11:45-12:45-1:15-4:30-6:45-8:30-10:20 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon 11:45-12:45-3:30-6:45-8:30-10:20 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue-Wed 11:45-12:45-1:15-4:30-6:45-8:30-10:20 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 11:20-12:45-2:55

**Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans** (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 1:10-4:05-7:05-10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 1:05-4:05-7:05-10

**The Blind Side** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:40-3:30-4:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:35-4:30-6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-10

**The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 1:05-4:15-7:15-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:50-4:15-7:15-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 11:30-3

**Brothers** (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 1:15-4:05-7:20-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:55-4:20-7:20-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 11:55-2:50

**Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 1:10-4:05-9:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 12:25-3:20

**Disney's A Christmas Carol** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-3:30-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 12:30-3:30-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 12:30-3:30-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 11:50-3:20

**Everybody's Fine** (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 12:50-3:40-6:35-9:40 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:35-9:40 Dolby Stereo Mon 12:25-3:25-9:40 Dolby Stereo Tue-Wed 12:25-3:25-6:35-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-3:10

**Invictus** (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 12:50-3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20 Stadium Seating Wed 12:20-3:20-7:20-9:20 Stadium Seating Thu 11:50-2:55

**Old Dogs** (G) Dolby Stereo Fri 12:45-3:20-7:05-9:35 Dolby Stereo Sat-Wed 12:10-3:05-7:05-9:35 Dolby Stereo Thu 12:10-2:40

**Planet 51** (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri 12:40-3:30-6:20-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:30-3:20-6:20-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:05-2:50

**The Princess and the Frog** (G) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 1:4-7:30 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 1:30-4:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 1:20-2:30-7:45-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 1:20-2:30-7:45-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1:20-2:30

**The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-12:50-3:30-7:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:30-12:50-3:30-7:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 11:50-2:30

**Up in the Air** (14) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed 12:30-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 11:40-3:10

**IMAX**  
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**Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 2:30-6:30-9:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 2:05-6:30-9:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 2:06-6:30-9:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 2:05-6:30-9:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 11:10-2:35

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**It's a Wonderful Life** (STC) Sun 1  
**The Road** (STC) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7:30 Mon-Wed 7:30 Thu 3

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**Antichrist** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:40  
**Avatar** (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 2:45-6:30-10:20 No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-3:35

**The Blind Side** (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:30 Thu 12:30-3:35  
**Brothers** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 1:40-6:40-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat 6:40-9:10 Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 1:40-6:40-9:10

**Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:10-3:40-7:30-9:30



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**2012** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 11:50-3:45-7:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30

**Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:25-4:10-7:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:25-4:10-7:10-9:40

**Avatar** (PG) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 11:30-12:30-4:30-7:30-9 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:30

**The Blind Side** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:30-4:0-6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 11:30-2:30

**Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (G) Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 12:15-2:20-4:40-6:40-9:40 Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 12:15-2:20

**Avatar** (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-4:30-8 Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 12:30

**The Blind Side** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:50-3:30-6:40-9:40 Stadium Seating Thu 12:50-3:30

**Brothers** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 1:20-4:40-6:50-9:15 Stadium Seating Sat 1:20-4:40-7:20-9:20 Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-3:45

**Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Wed 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-4:15

**Old Dogs** (G) Stadium Seating Fri 1:20-3:50-7:10-9:30

**The Princess and the Frog** (G) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 12:10-4:40-7:20-9:40 Stadium Seating Sun 12:10-4:40-7:20-9:40 Stadium Seating Sat 12:10-4:40-7:20-9:40 Stadium Seating Sun 12:10-4:40-7:20-9:40

**The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 1:20-4:40-7:20-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:20-4:40-7:20-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-4:40-7:20-9:20

**Up in the Air** (14) Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 1:30-3:30-9:10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30



**The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann - Live** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2

**Old Dogs** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:55-4:45-7:30-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:20-2:50

**The Princess and the Frog** (G) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:10-4:10-7:20-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:10-4:10-7:20-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-9:40

**The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:20-3:20-6:20-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:20-3:20-6:20-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-3:20-6:20-9:30

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**Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (G) Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 12:20-3:0-9:40 Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 12:20

**Avatar** (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 8: Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Wed 12:30-4:15-8 Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 12:30

**The Blind Side** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-3:20

**Brothers** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 1:20-4:20-6:50-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:40

**Old Dogs** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:30-3:30-7:20-9:50

**The Princess and the Frog** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:10-2:30-7:30-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 12:10-2:30-7:30-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:10-2:30

**The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:30

**Up in the Air** (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 12:15-2:15-4:0-6:35-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 12:15-2:15

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**Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (G) Wed 1:20-3:30-7:10-9:40

**Avatar** (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:40-3:30-8:00 No Passes Thu 1:40-3:30

**The Blind Side** (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:0-6:0-9:40 Thu 1:10-3:0-6:0-9:40

**Brothers** (14) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:0-6:30-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Wed 1:25-4:0-6:30-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:25-4:0-6:30-9:40

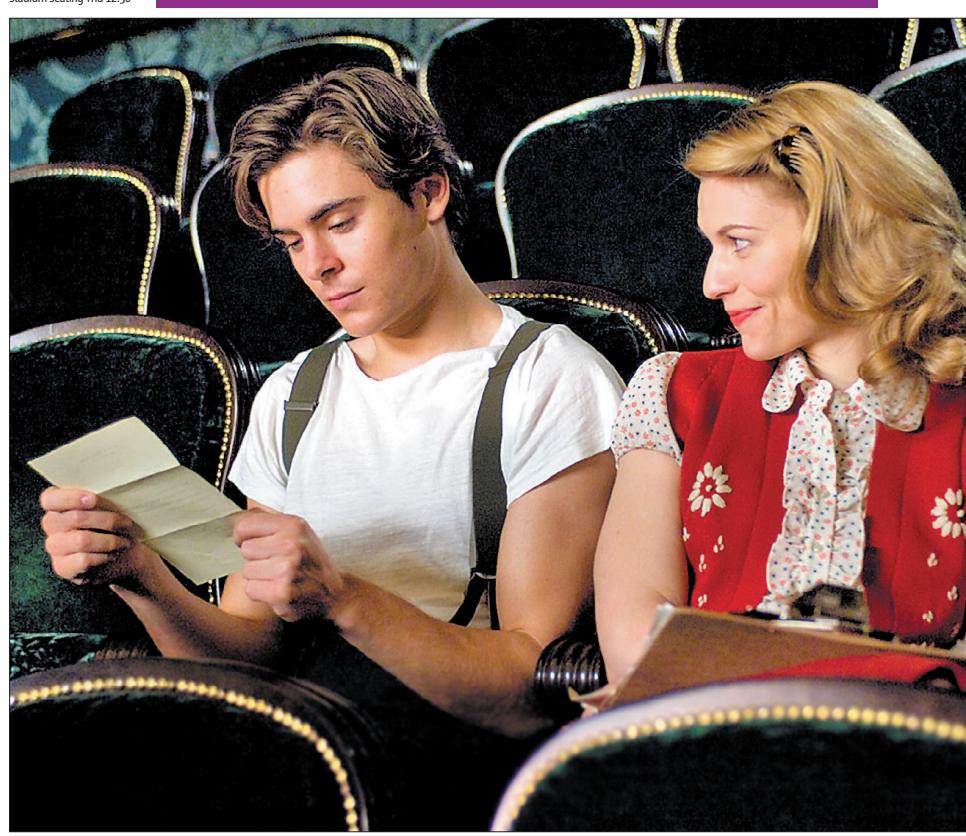
**Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:45-4:15-7:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:45-4:15-7:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:45-4:15-7:10-9:40

**Old Dogs** (G) Fri-Wed 1:30-3:50-2:0-9:35 Thu 1:30-3:50

**The Princess and the Frog** (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-3:40-7:10-9:30 Mon-Wed 1:15-3:40-7:10-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 1:15-3:40-7:10-9:30

**The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Fri 1:20-4:10-7:45

**Up in the Air** (14) No Passes Wed 1:25-3:55-6:30-9 No Passes Thu 1:25-3:55



Orson Welles stars Zac Efron as the young film director.

**Billboard's top albums**

1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Glee Soundtrack, Various Artists; 4. Fearless (Platinum Edition), Taylor Swift; 5. Play On, Carrie Underwood. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Orianthi meets the King

Guitarist was hired to back Michael Jackson on This Is It

**KEITH CARMAN**  
for Metro Canada



Orianthi Panagaris was the guitarist for Michael Jackson on his unrealized *This Is It* comeback.

**Rock guitarist Orianthi Panagaris has just released her sophomore full-length *Believe*.**

While the album gleans respect thanks to Panagaris' prodigiousness and a notable history with highlights such as performing alongside fellow fret board gurus Carlos Santana, Eric Clapton and Steve Vai (not to mention backing Prince and Carrie Underwood during her recent Grammy Awards performance), the Australian-born/Greek-bred instrumentalist has an even greater credit to her name.

Panagaris was the guitarist for the late Michael Jackson on his unrealized *This Is It* string of comeback concerts. So despite the thrill of seeing her own talent gain accolades, the dextrous dame understands why people feel more inclined to discuss her brief tenure as six-string samurai for the King of Pop.

"I was shocked when it happened," she reflects with a hint of melancholy. "I went to try out for the band playing the solo for *Beat It*. I didn't know what to expect but he was so happy with the way I played, he hired me on the spot. I couldn't believe it."

Over the course of the ensuing three months, Panagaris (who typically utilizes her first name) and the rest of the *This Is It* band routinely rehearsed with Jackson and his troupe, creating a purportedly dazzling return to form for the disparaged King.

Yet, as we all know, mere weeks before the show was to go on, Jackson passed away. Reflecting, Panagaris reveals that Jackson's essence captured her so deeply, she feels little remorse at not getting to strut her stuff for the string of 50 sold-out gigs.

"We didn't get to do the shows but we got the chance to play music with him for three months," she smiles. "He was so giving to all of us. He wanted us all to have our moment and put everything he had into it. He was happy and enthusiastic about it."

"People say he didn't want to do it but you can tell with (the *This Is It* film) how much he really

did. We're never gonna get to play with him again but we got to see how wonderful he was as person and an artist. We were also the last people to be around

him. We'll never forget that. It's life-changing."

Such an astounding experience is also the reason Panagaris forgives minds for inquiring more about

**"I didn't know what to expect but (Michael Jackson) was so happy with the way I played, he hired me on the spot. I couldn't believe it."**

Orianthi Panagaris

her time with Jackson than her new record. She expects it, she laughs, noting that overall, she is merely thankful to have been part of such a historical moment.

"It doesn't bother me at all that people ask about my time with MJ more than *Believe*. I understand that. (*The album*) was done before I was hired. I have a great band that knew how working with MJ was a dream come true. I don't think it hindered it at all. I'm grateful to have been a part of (*This Is It*) and now I'm focusing on this."



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2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli;
3. Crazy Love, Michael Bublé; 4. Glee Soundtrack, Various Artists; 5. The Fall, Norah Jones.

## Music

# Best albums of the decade

## SoundCheck



metronews.ca/soundcheck

**This Is It, The Strokes (Sept 25, 2001):** Yes, several of the Strokes were trust-fund private school kids, but that certainly didn't stop them from making a street smart record that really kicked off the decade's fascination with indie rock.

**Songs for the Deaf, Queens of the Stone Age (Aug. 27, 2002):** Josh Homme out front, Dave Grohl on drums. In retrospect, the ancestor of Them Crooked Vultures.

**A Rush of Blood to the Head, Coldplay (April 1, 2003):** Parachutes was a fine record, but it certainly didn't hint towards the superstardom that would come rushing in with the next album.

**Elephant, White Stripes (April 1, 2003):** Seven Nation Army and the Hardest Button to Button cemented Jack White's rep as the guitar god of the '00s.

**American Idiot, Green Day (Sept. 21, 2004):** Aging punk rockers mount comeback with a punk rock opera. Didn't see that coming.

**Kid A, Radiohead (Oct. 2, 2001):** Under pressure to follow up 1997's OK Computer, Radiohead deconstructed itself in order to assemble an astonishingly smooth record that doesn't sound like it was made by a rock band.

**Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not/Arctic Monkeys (Feb. 21, 2006):** They went from getting guitars for Christmas to the biggest new band in the U.K. in just a couple of years. And Alex Turner has become one of the decade's best lyricists.

**In Rainbow/Radiohead (Oct. 10, 2007):** Ask people to pay what they think the album is worth? Good luck with that.

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**Gilmore Girls are back**

It's a Gilmore Girls mother-daughter reunion on NBC. Gilmore matriarch Kelly Bishop has booked a multi-episode arc on Mercy. Bishop's TV offspring, Lauren Graham, is also starring on a Peacock drama, Parenthood. [ew.com](#)

# Dean and Dan do it all

**Dan and Dean Caten are loving this moment in the limelight.**

The twin-brother team behind the fashion label Dsquared2 are on TV and the radio, they created concert costumes for Madonna and Britney Spears, and they'll be outfitting the headlining performers at the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2010 Winter Olympics. Earlier this year, they received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame — the only fashion designers to be honoured alongside the likes of Michael J. Fox and Wayne Gretzky.

They have a collection of branded MAC cosmetics as well as eyewear and fragrance deals.

But any time it seems success might go to their heads, they remember their modest Canadian roots and have a good chuckle.

Actually, they do more than chuckle, they crack each other up, communicating in shorthand that takes other people in the room a little while to understand.

"Plus they're fun, fun, fun!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dan, left, and Dan Caten are fashion designers, and now TV hosts.

professionals a chance to break into the fashion biz.

The Catens' personalities largely serve as the glue for the TV show.

"Not only are they supercredible, hot and talented designers, the idea of having identical twin brother designers as fashion hosts is as unique as they are," says Andy Cohen, senior vice-president of original programming and development at Bravo.

"Plus they're fun, fun, fun!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



For December 17<sup>th</sup>

Aleesia - Bubble Gum

IYAZ - Replay

Jason Derulo - In My Head

Down With Webster - Rich Girls

Hedley - Don't Talk To Strangers

David Guetta Ft Akon - Sexy Chick

Beyonce Ft Lady Gaga - Video Phone

Ke\$ha - Tik Tok

Lady Gaga - Bad Romance

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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	ABC News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Supernanny (N)		20/20 (HDTV)		20/20
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	The Carol Project			At the Concert Hall		Atlantis
11	11	11	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Home Alone *** (1990, Comedy)	Macy Culkin			CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Patriots All Access	Frosty	Frosty	(10:01) Medium			NUMB3RS
6	6	6	CJHL	Entertainment	ET Canada	NUMB3RS "First Law"	Dollhouse Echo			News Final (N)		CTV News
9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Access H.	Playing for Keeps (2009, Docudrama), Doug Savant				Michael Bublé		
36	36	36	FOX	Selznick	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Dollhouse Echo		Fox First		
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	Law & Order "Zero"		Dateline NBC (N)		Jay Leno
55	55	55	SCOR	HST	Covers	Poker Asian Pacific Tour:						MMA Night
53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	NHL Hockey	Toronto Maple Leafs at Buffalo Sabres.	(HDTV) (Live)			NHL Hockey
16	16	16	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds				Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal
70	70	70	APTN	APTN News	Investigates	Fish Out	Blessings	Cashing In	Rabbit Fall	The White Dawn *** (1974, Adventure)		
37	37	37	BRVO	Wind at My Back		Bare Naked for the Holidays	Bravo!FACT	Cover Stories	White Collar "White Collar Pilot"			
49	49	49	COM	Just for Laughs	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Corner Gas		The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)			Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)	Canada's Worst Driver			Man vs. Wild		Biblical Myst.
34	48	48	HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home	House	Property	House			Relocation, Relocation		House
46	46	46	HIST	Go Deep		Battles BC		Fatal Passage (N)		Fatal Passage		Underworld
17	17	17	MM	Love Court (N)	My Date		Secret Life of American Teen	The Vampire Diaries		The Vampire Diaries		40 Year
206	206	206	PIX	(7:10) Calendar ** (1993, Drama)						City by the Sea (2002, Crime Drama)		
39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits	Howie Do It	Howie Do It		Kenny vs. Kenny-Spenny		Law Order
40	40	40	SЛИCE	Vanity Insanity		Rich Bride, Poor Bride	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part		Til Debt-Part		Til Debt-Part
21	21	21	TLC	Dress	Dress	Dress	Say Yes to the Dress			Say Yes		Weddings
22	22	22	W	Grocery Bag	Maxed Out	Home by Christmas (2006, Drama), Linda Hamilton.				Santa Baby 2: Christmas Maybe (2009)		
27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	Sabrina-Witch	Unaccompanied Minors ** (2006, Comedy)				Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	ABC News	The Brian McKnight Show	The Santa Clause 2 ** (2002, Comedy)	Tim Allen.				Castle	
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	DTable Hockey		Anne of Green Gables *** (1985, Drama) (DVS)					Atlantis	
11	11	11	CBC	National Hockey Night	NHL Hockey	Boston Bruins at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey	
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	CBS News	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Elf *** (2003, Comedy) Will Ferrell, James Caan.				48 Hours.	
6	6	6	CJHL	Santa Claus Parade		Project Runway Canada		Elf				News Final (N)	
9	9	9	CJCH	Chasing Christmas (2005, Drama)	Tom Arnold. (DVS)	Muppets Christmas: Letters		Christmas - White House				CTV News	
36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Cops	Cops		America's Most Wanted		Fox First	
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Access Hollywood (N)	Muppets Christmas: Letters	WWE Tribute to the Troops				Law/Ord SVU	
55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	WWE Vintage Collection		College Football St. Petersburg Bowl - Central Florida vs. Rutgers. (Live)					
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		NBA Basketball Portland Trail Blazers at Orlando Magic.						SportsCentre	
16	16	16	A&E	Hoarders "Augustine"	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)				Criminal	
70	70	70	APTN	Big Bear	The Mix	MTV	Blackfly			Expiration Date (2006, Romance-Comedy)			
37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Spectacle: Elvis	Star Portraits	Books-Film		The Man Who Saved Christmas (2002)			
49	49	49	COM	VIP	Bet Your Ass	Comedy Now	Corner Gas	Jeff Dunham		The Simpsons	South Park	Colbert Cmas	
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	Newsroom		Campbell Brown			Larry King Live		Newsroom	
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Destroyed		Canada's Worst Driver		Time Warp	
34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Handyman Superstar	Handyman Superstar			Property		Property Makeover	
46	46	46	HIST	Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Ultimate Engineering	Cities of the Underworld			Chicago *** (2002, Musical)			
17	17	17	MM	The Vampire Diaries		The 40-Year-Old Virgin (2005, Romance-Comedy)				Love Court	My Date	Muchmusic	
206	206	206	PIX	(6:30) Patriot Games *** (1997, Crime)			Leonard Part 6 * (1987, Comedy)					Bulletproof Monk *** (2003, Action)	
39	39	39	SHOW	Bourne	About a Girl	The Guard	Christmas Town (2008, Romance-Comedy)					Superbad	
40	40	40	SЛИCE	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives of Jersey	Real Housewives-Atlanta	Real Housewives NYC				Matchmaker	
21	21	21	TLC	Police Women of Broward		Police Women of Broward	Police Women of Broward					Ghost Intervention (N)	
22	22	22	W	Christmas Special		Moonlight and Mistletoe (2008, Drama), Christopher Wiehl						The Most Wonderful Time of the Year (2008)	
27	27	27	YTV	Charlie Brown	Charlie Brown	Flintstones		He-Man, She-Ra Christmas					Amer. Funniest Home Videos
													Survive This

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	ABC News	Funnest Home Videos	The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause * (2006)					Housewives
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Rita MacNeil-Personal Note	Anne of Green Gables *** (1985, Drama) (DVS)						Atlantis
11	11	11	CBC	Pooh	The Grinch	National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation *** (1989)						Confidential
32	32	32	CBS	Evening News	WBZ News (N)	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)	Survivor: Samoa (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)					Survivor
6	6	6	CJHL	16:9 Picture	'Til Death	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Survivor: Samoa (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)				The Bourne Supremacy *** (2004, Suspense)
9	9	9	CJCH	Shrek the Third ** (2007, Comedy)	Eddie Murphy							CTV News
36	36	36	FOX	NFL Football: Packers at Steelers		The OT	The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy	American Dad		Fox First
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Football Night in America	(9:15) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Carolina Panthers.					
55	55	55	SCOR	(6) NFL Blitz		The WWE Experience	NFL Blitz	College Football: R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl				
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		Football Night in America	(9:15) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Carolina Panthers.					
16	16	16	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)			Jacksons
70	70	70	APTN	APTN InFocus	Investigates	Aboriginal Day	The Mix	Arbor Live		Luna: Spirit of the Whale (2007, Documentary)		
37	37	37	BRVO	Spectacle: Elvis	Arts & Minds	Bravo!FACT	Johnny Cash: Man in Black	Forrest Gump *** (1994, Drama)				
49	49	49	COM	VIP	Bet Your Ass	Laughs	Laughs	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	The Simpsons	South Park	TBA
18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom	Campbell Brown			Larry King Live		Newsroom
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters	Alaska: Most Extreme			Arctic Roughnecks (N)		MythBusters
34	48	48	HGTV	Carter Comes Home		Celebrity Holiday Homes	Sandra Lee-Winter Party			Holmes Inspection		Renovation
46	46	46	HIST	Ice Road Truckers	Vimy Under	Running Guns				Lord of War ** (2005, Drama)		
17	17	17	MM	Make It or Break It	My Date	disBAND		So You Think You Can Dance		So You Think You Can Dance		Love Court
206	206	206	PIX	(6:50) Cate & Dogs (2001, Comedy)								Wise Guys ** (1986, Comedy)
39	39	39	SHOW	How Ginch	Howie Do It	Cra\$h & Burn						Smokin' Aces
40	40	40	SЛИCE	X-Weighted "Analisa"	My Wardrobe	My Wardrobe	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style					
21	21	21	TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence	Obese and Pregnant	I'm Pregnant	I'm Pregnant	Tori & Dean: Home				Pageant
22	22	22	W	Grocery Bag	Divine Design	Crazy for Christmas (2005, Drama)	Andrea Roth.	I'm Pregnant	Pregnant and in Peril			Psychics
27	27	27	YTV	Christmas With the Kranks ** (2004, Comedy)		SpongeBob	Family Biz	Smallville "Requiem"				Survive This

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00



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# 36 movies&entertainment

## Going Out

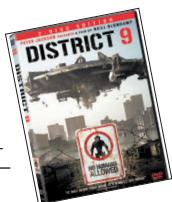
Metro's **7<sup>th</sup> Heaven**: Metro taps what's hot right now

### 1 Avatar

**FILM** Actually, Did You Hear About The Morgans? was our first choice ... just kidding. No movie opening this week can stand up to the gazillion-dollar behemoth that is Avatar. Ontario-born James Cameron dishes out the ultimate Hollywood spectacle. So, the big box-office question is: Will it sink Titanic?

### 2 District 9

**DVD** James Cameron, take note: It only takes \$30 million to make arguably one of the best sci-fi films ever. Set in his native South Africa, director Neill Blomkamp targets everything from xenophobia to class conflict in this start-to-finish entertainer. And it's not all politics — there are plenty of things blowing up and oozing out to keep Michael Bay-fed audiences happy as well.



### 3 Kid Sings Jason Mraz

**VIDEO** A five-year-old proves that not knowing the lyrics to a song and being out of tune are no impediments to stardom. Armed with a ukulele, the Japanese boy sings the ubiquitous I'm Yours on this viral video, which has garnered close to five million hits. Take that, cute kittens.

### 4 Cleaving: Julie Powell

**BOOK** Subtitled A Story of Marriage, Meat and Obsession, this memoir serves up tales from the slaughterhouse and garnishes them with the dirty entrails of the writer's own marriage gone bad. It's a particularly bloody affair — replete with both adultery and offal.

### 5 Decade/Year-End Lists

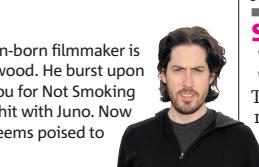
**NSFW** When it comes to media, 'tis the season of those authoritative, we-know-it-all picks. And, thanks to the end of the first 10 years of the millennium, we get two lists of each instead of one from Billboard and Pitchfork

### 7 Jason Reitman

**DIRECTOR** This Canadian-born filmmaker is the new It Boy of Hollywood. He burst upon the scene with Thank You for Not Smoking and went on to score a hit with Juno. Now with Up In The Air, he seems poised to soar during awards season.

### 6 Nine: OST

**ALBUM** Chicago director Rob Marshall revives the 1982 award-winning musical, which was based on Frederico Fellini's art-house hit 8½. Everyone from Black Eyed Peas' Fergie to Penelope Cruz flex their vocal chords for this adaptation.



## Mix of Six

### A Christmas Carol

When: Through Jan. 3  
Where: Neptune Theatre  
This holiday classic is being showcased for the first time ever as a musical. For ticket information and showtimes, visit neputnetheatre.com.

### QMJHL Hockey

When: Friday, 7 p.m.  
Where: Halifax Metro Centre  
The red-hot Saint John Sea Dogs are in town and should give the youthful Herd all they can handle. Adult tickets are \$14.50.

### Sean Kingston

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.  
Where: Halifax Forum  
This Jamaican-American reggae fusion singer and rapper is coming to

town. Tickets are \$39.75, plus service charges.

### Premier Basketball League

When: Saturday, 7 p.m.  
Where: Siesta Nouveaux  
The Halifax Rainmen are kicking off their schedule with three games in as many days.

### Barra MacNeils

When: Sunday, 4 and 8 p.m.  
Where: Rebecca Cohn  
The popular Cape Breton group's Christmas show features many holiday classics.

### John Gracie Xmas

When: Friday, 8 p.m.  
Where: The Schooner Room  
This popular Christmas performance is back. Tickets are \$33.

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## Celebrity Buzz

## Frances Bean slaps Love with restraining order

**NO SNARK, JUST SAD** Courtney Love's custody debacle seems to only be getting worse, as a Los Angeles judge has now issued a restraining order keeping her from seeing her daughter, Frances Bean Cobain, according to Page Six.

The order was reportedly acquired after Love took to her Facebook account to savage her daughter with a series of expletive-laden rants after losing custody of the 17-year-old.



METRO WORLD NEWS

## Hermione tops decade's highest-paid actress list

**BOX OFFICE MAGICIAN** Emma Watson is the highest paid actress of the past decade, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Harry Potter actress — who plays Hermione Granger in the wizard film series, which started in 2001 — has been awarded the title by the Guinness Book of World Records.

The 19-year-old star's starring role in the six films, as well as her voice

part in animated movie *The Tale Of Despereaux*, helped take \$5.4 billion US worldwide, putting the takings ahead of some of Hollywood's big players including Julia Roberts, Halle Berry and Cameron Diaz.

She also boasts the highest average box office receipts per movie, with each of her films making an average of \$897,100,000.

METRO WORLD NEWS



## Tiger romance rumours a "lie," says Simpson

## BUT PLEASE KEEP PUBLISHING STORIES ABOUT ME ANYWAY

Jessica Simpson was quick to set the record straight about rumors that she once flirted with Tiger Woods, taking to her Twitter account to refute a Star magazine cover story.

"Can't believe that I'm on the cover of star magazine with Tiger Woods, what a joke," Simpson posted on her account. "*The Shocking Inside Story* is (insert drumroll) a lie!"

METRO WORLD NEWS

## Celebrity tweets

**Josh Groban** is in the holiday spirit, **Tyra Banks** doesn't mean to be so difficult, **Paris Hilton** is staying in, and **Kevin Spacey** wants to hang out.



• **@joshgroban** I always think it's cute when music press gets downright flabbergasted that christmas music is topping the charts in december.

• **@tyrabanks** i'm crazy talking 'bout my tummy not feeling good from creamy ice cream then complaining when they don't give u enuf!

• **@ParisHilton** Just ordered Italian food to be delivered. Yum! So hungry!

• **@KevinSpacey** I am standing on stage at the Old Vic with Eddie Izzard who is just about to do his show. Come down for a drink.

METRO WORLD NEWS

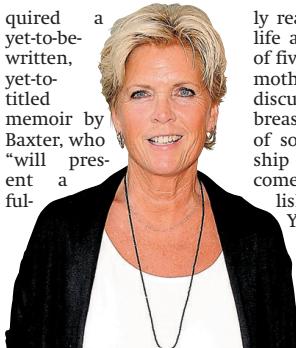


## Baxter to pen memoirs

**COMING OUT TO A BOOK-STORE NEAR YOU** Having come out in the pages of People earlier this month as a real-life lesbian mother, Meredith Baxter — who played the popular TV mom Elyse Keaton on the '80s sitcom *Family Ties* — will now put her entire story to paper, people.com reports.

This week, the Broadway Books imprint of Crown Publishing Group announced it had ac-

quired a yet-to-be-written, yet-to-be-titled memoir by Baxter, who "will present a ful-



ly realized portrait of her life as an actress, mother of five children and grandmother, and will candidly discuss her fight with breast cancer, her 19 years of sobriety, entrepreneurship and her decision to come out," says the publisher, reports The New York Times.

METRO WORLD NEWS

## Shia's sweet un-Hollywood date

**ECO-LOVE** Shia LaBeouf has been showing British girlfriend Carey Mulligan the sights of his hometown — by bus. The Transformers star was spotted making out with his Wall Street 2 costar at a busstop near his



METRO WORLD NEWS

Sherman Oaks, Calif., home before taking her out for lunch, shopping and a movie at a nearby mall, according to People magazine. "They are a very sweet couple," a source says.

## Beckham's karaoke nightmares

**JUST FAKE AN INJURY, BECKS** David Beckham says it isn't easy sitting down to dinner with Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, usmagazine.com reports.

"We were at dinner once with Tom and Katie ... and we sat there and everyone was like, 'OK, let's play a music game, let's start a singing game!'" Beckham, 34, recalled on George Lopez's TBS late night show, *Lopez Tonight*, on Wednesday.

Singing in public, he said, "Is my worst nightmare!" Beckham said he noticed one of his friends

was dining at another table nearby.

"So I was texting my friend, 'Oh, please, invite me to your table!'" said Beckham. "I kind of get uncomfortable with that."

Kidding aside, Cruise, 47, and

Holmes, 30, "are amazing parents and really good people," Beckham said. "You say there's good looking people, and you look at Tom, and he's one of the most handsome men I've ever met."

METRO WORLD NEWS



## Hugh Grant doesn't think he's 'special'

**IF ONLY MORE ACTORS HAD HALF AS MUCH SELF-AWARENESS** Hugh Grant doesn't think he's all that special. "I'm very picky but also very limited as an actor," Grant tells USA Today. "I've always said that if you give me an Ibsen script, I can get away with it. But there are a lot of people who can do it better."



METRO WORLD NEWS



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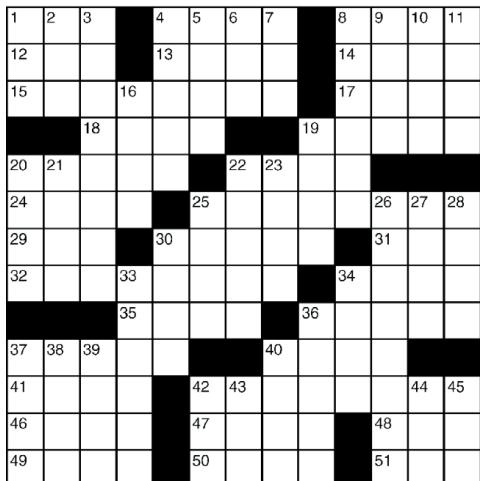
**Saturday**  
Flurries  
-4° / 8°  
40% chance

**Sunday**  
Variable  
-3° / -9°

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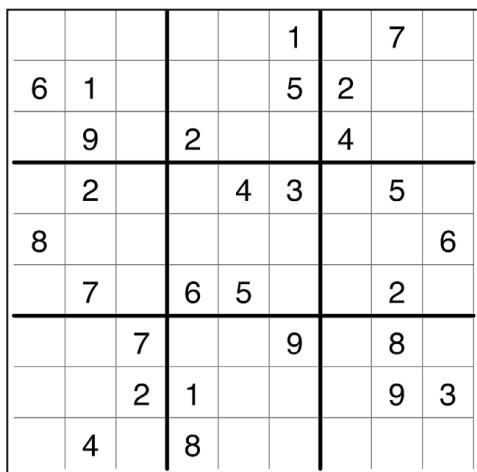


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**Sudoku**

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

**Horoscopes by Sally Brompton** [sallybrompton.com](http://sallybrompton.com)**ARIES****MARCH 21-APRIL 20****TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21-MAY 21**

Duty calls today and although you might not want to knuckle down you know if you don't you will be up against the clock the whole weekend.

**LIBRA****SEPT 23-OCT 23**

Keep your opinions to yourself, especially on the home front where things could get tense if you speak your mind.

**SCORPIO**  
**OCT 24-NOV 22**

You may not be able to speak freely now but come the 21st you will more than make up for your current reticence.

**GEMINI**  
**MAY 22-JUNE 21**

You may not be in the most sociable of moods today but that's okay because the more time you spend thinking and planning the better.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOV 23-DEC 21**

You know that someone needs help and you are more than willing to give it but what can you do when they keep pushing you away?

**CANCER**  
**JUNE 22-JULY 22**

For some reason you cannot be bothered to make much of an effort at the moment but everything that needs to be done will be done for you by others

**CAPRICORN**  
**DEC 22-JAN 20**

If you get the chance to do a good deed for someone do it but don't make a big deal about it.

**LEO**  
**JULY 23-AUG 23**

Don't waste time arguing with others about trivial matters. There are far more important issues you should be focusing on now.

**AQUARIUS**  
**JAN 21-FEB 18**

According to the planets someone is as attracted to you as you are to them but they are finding it difficult to make the first move. So take the first step.

**VIRGO**  
**AUG 24-SEPT 22**

Heal a rift with a partner or loved one today. Say sorry. Put the relationship before your ego.

**PISCES****FEB 19-MARCH 20**

You may be having problems with a relationship but the effects are not yet so bad that you cannot patch things up and get back to how it was before.

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